



MSHDA REVIEW

Volume 25, No. 1

*Your Affordable Housing Partner
Celebrating Its 36th Year*

March/April 2002

MSHDA'S DETROIT OFFICE MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

Nearly on the heels of MSHDA's Lansing office move, the Detroit office will relocate to its new home in April. Following extensive renovation of the old General Motors Headquarters Building in Detroit, 18 state departments, including MSHDA will be housed in the newly renamed Cadillac Place. MSHDA's move is scheduled to begin April 19 and be completed by start of work Monday morning, April 22.

Cadillac Place is the result of the state's aggressive effort to consolidate metro-Detroit Agencies into a single office building in Detroit's New Center Area.

As the former GM building, renowned as the largest office building in the world, it was renamed Cadillac Place in honor of Detroit's founder Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac.

NEW ADDRESS

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JAMES L. LOGUE III

Affordable housing issues are largely dependent on federal legislation, and Housing Finance Agencies (HFA) throughout the country strive to attain goals that range from preventing homelessness to promoting homeownership. MSHDA is no exception, and while we aspire to encourage self-sufficiency and promote economic opportunity for all Michigan residents, we must

MSHDA UNDERTAKES AMBITIOUS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

work shoulder to shoulder with our Congressional delegation in Washington to ensure that these goals are a priority.

Currently MSHDA, along with other HFAs, are gearing up to address these affordable housing goals by advocating the following:

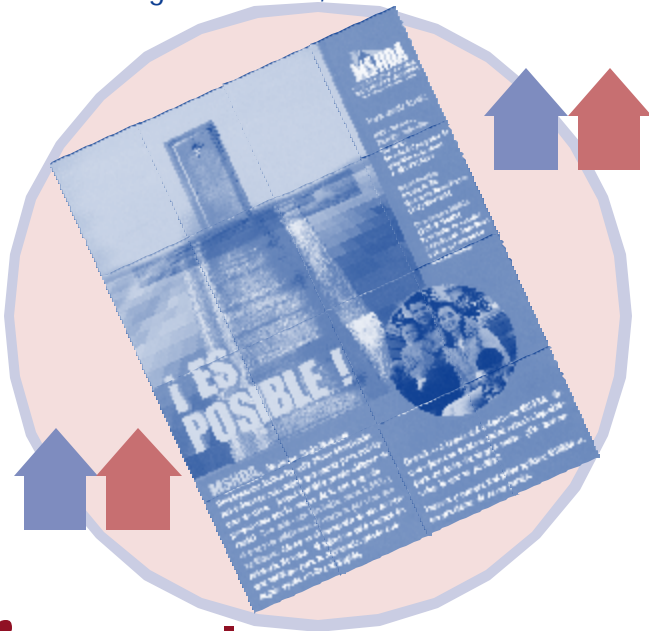
- Creating a new state HFA-administered rental production program targeted in significant part to extremely low-income families (30 percent of area median income or less).
- Increasing HOME funding which will create jobs, expand local tax bases, and stabilize distressed neighborhoods.
- Enacting legislation along the lines of the Administration's



"Renewing the Dream" home ownership tax credit to encourage the development of single family homes for purchase by lower income families.

- Enacting legislation to define types of development costs that developers of affordable rental housing can use in obtaining Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

I will keep you updated throughout the year regarding the status of these legislative goals.



MSHDA ADVERTISES AMERICAN DREAM TO HISPANIC COMMUNITIES

Nelson and Zaida Rios receive homeownership guidance from Jody Lewis and Sireece Martin, homeownership counselors at ICCF in Grand Rapids. Language and income were barriers to the Rios family. ➡



¡ES POSIBLE! is the theme of MSHDA's recent advertising campaign that targeted Spanish-speaking prospective homebuyers in Grand Rapids and Detroit. Flyers and posters were inserted in Hispanic newspapers throughout the state and posted in communities where Spanish is the main language. Thanks to help from ICCF in Grand Rapids and Bagley House in Detroit, many Hispanic families who were having difficulties communicating with lenders are now on the way to owning their first homes.



➡ *In the Detroit area, Bagley Housing assisted with Spanish speaking prospective homebuyers. Maria Lopez (l) is the client receiving help from Mariela Griffor, Bagley Housing Community Relations Developer.*



Putting People In MSHDA Homes

HEARTWARMING STORIES OF HOW MSHDA HOMEOWNERSHIP AND RENTAL PROGRAMS HELP PUT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES INTO HOMES THAT FIT THEIR NEEDS

Without a stroke of good luck and MSHDA's foreclosure prevention program, LINKS to Homeownership, Miriam Torres Callazo and her family probably would have lost their home.

A single mother of two young children, Torres Callazo was laid off from her job earlier this year. The layoff was so stressful, that by the time she was called back to work two months later, her health had deteriorated so much, she was

forced to stay home from work by doctor's orders for another four months!

By the time she was able to return to work, she had fallen behind two months in her house payments. Thanks to MSHDA's LINKS to Homeownership program, Torres Callazo qualified for a \$5,000 financial assistance award. She received her guidance and assistance through the Lighthouse of Oakland County, a member of the MSHDA Homeownership Counseling Network.

"They approved me for two months of my house payment, and I was able to get caught back up," she said. "Everything worked out ok."



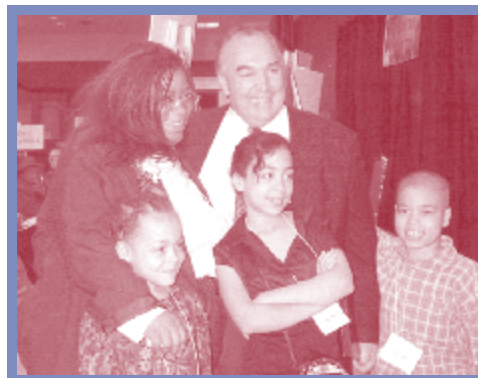
GOVERNOR AND MSHDA APPLAUD 100TH ACHIEVER FOR OUTSTANDING PROGRESS TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Raquel Dubois tearfully accepted the 100th statewide Achiever of the Month Award from the Family Independence Agency (FIA) at a recent ceremony in Livonia. The award was presented by FIA Director and also an Authority member Douglas E. Howard.

The Achiever of the Month Award was established in 1993 to recognize the contributions and achievements of participants in Michigan's landmark welfare reform initiative *To Strengthen Michigan Families*.

Gov. John Engler underscored the program's success by announcing the reauthorization of the block grant known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – or TANF.

Gov. John Engler highlights 10 years of welfare reform success in Michigan at a recent news conference celebrating the 100th Achiever. Gov. Engler recognized Executive Director Jim Logue (far left) for MSHDA's role in the state's effective reforms. ➡



⇐ Gov. Engler with 100th Achiever Raquel Dubois of Detroit (far left) and her three children, ages eight through eleven. Dubois was the 100th achiever recognized since the program began nearly 10 years ago. She first turned to the Family Independence Agency for assistance as a pregnant teenager in February 1987.



ORDER YOUR HOUSING CONFERENCE T-SHIRTS NOW

Specially designed T-shirts will be available at the conference in June, but to be sure and get one or more before supplies run out, orders are being taken now.

The shirts are white with the full-color conference logo on the front and are available for only \$12. Order forms are included with pre-registration booklets and payment is requested with registration fees. Pre-ordered T-shirts will be ready and waiting for attendees upon arrival at the conference. Visit www.housingconference.org for more information.



CONFERENCE OFFERS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

The Michigan Conference on Affordable Housing Planning Committee not only invites you to attend the annual statewide Conference on Affordable Housing June 10 - 12 at the Lansing Center in Lansing, but promises to include some very unique opportunities as well.

In addition to its five informative tracks from Ending Homelessness to Expanding Homeownership Opportunities, the very first annual Terrence R. Duvernay Award will be presented to the person who best reflects Duvernay's ideals and personal qualities. Networking will be an enjoyable experience – located right in the communications hub amidst soft, comfortable seating. A Cyber Cafe will keep everyone in touch with the outside world, a Monday Night Blues Party with live entertainment will give everyone a chance to do a little toe tapping, and an evening aboard the Michigan Princess on Lansing's Grand River is a possibility that you will want to consider.

Conference registration booklets will be mailed soon. Visit www.housingconference.org for further information. Limited scholarships are available to organizations which could not otherwise afford to send staff members. Conference booklets contain information and applications.

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Equal Housing Lender



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